

THE LEISURE HOUR.

A FAMILY JOURNAL OF INSTRUCTION AND RECREATION.

"BEHOLD IN THESE WHAT LEISURE HOURS DEMAND,—AMUSEMENT AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE HAND IN HAND."—Cowper.



AUSTIN CLAY'S FIRST LODGING IN LONDON.

'A LIFE'S SECRET.

CHAPTER III.—DAFFODIL'S DELIGHT.

TURNING to the right after quitting the business premises of the Messrs. Hunter, you came to an open, handsome part, where the square in which those gentlemen dwelt was situated, with other desirable squares, crescents, and houses. But, if you turned to the left instead of to the right, you very speedily found yourself in the midst of a dense locality, not so agreeable to the eye or to the senses.

And yet, some parts of this were not much to be complained of, unless you instituted a comparison between them and those open places; but in this world all things are estimated by comparison. Take Daffodil's Delight, for example. "Daffodil's Delight!" cries the puzzled reader, uncertain whether it may be a live animal or something to eat, "what's that?" Daffodil's Delight was nothing more than a tolerably long street, or lane, or double row of houses—wide enough for a street, dirty enough for a lane, the buildings irregular, not always contiguous, small gardens before some, and a few trees scattered here and there. When the locality was mostly fields, and the buildings on them scanty, a person of the name of Daffodil

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PRICE ONE PENNY.

ran up a few tenements. He found that they let well, and he ran up more, and more, and more, until there was a long, long line of them, and he growing rich. He called the place Daffodil's Delight—which we may suppose expressed his own complacent satisfaction at his success—and Daffodil's Delight it had continued, down to the present day. The houses were of various sizes, and of fancy appearance; some large, some small; some rising up like a narrow tower, some but a story high; some were all windows, some seemed to have none; some you could only gain by ascending steps; to others you pitched down as into a cellar; some lay back, with gardens before their doors, while others projected pretty nearly on to the street gutter. Nothing in the way of houses could be more irregular; and, what Mr. Daffodil's motive could have been in erecting such, cannot be conjectured—unless he formed an idea that he would make a venture to suit various tastes and diverse pockets.

Nearly at the beginning of this locality, in its best part, there stood a house detached, white—one of only six rooms, but superior in appearance, and well kept; indeed, it looked more like a gentleman's cottage residence, than a working man's. Verandah blinds were outside the windows, and green wire fancy stands held geraniums and other plants on the stone copings, against their lower panes, obviating the necessity for inside blinds. In this house lived Peter Quale. He had begun life carrying hods of mortar for masons, and covering up bricks with straw—a half-starved urchin, his feet as naked as his head, and his body pretty nearly the same. But he was steady, industrious, and persevering—just one of those men that *work on* for decent position, and acquire it. From two shillings per week to four, from four to six, from six to twelve—such had been Peter Quale's beginnings. At twelve shillings he remained for some time stationary, and then his advance was rapid. Now he was one of the superior artisans of the Messrs. Hunters' yard; was, in fact, in a post of trust, and his wages had grown in proportion. Daffodil's Delight said that Quale's earnings could not be less than £150 per annum. A steady, sensible, honest, but somewhat obstinate man, well-read, and intelligent; for Peter, while he advanced his circumstances, had not neglected his mind. He had cultivated that far more than he had his speech or his manner: a homely tone and grammar, better known to Daffodil's Delight than to polite ears, Peter favoured still.

In the afternoon of Whit Monday, the day spoken of above, Peter sat in the parlour of his house, a pipe in his mouth and a book in his hands. He looked about midway between forty and fifty, had a round bald head, surmounted just now by a paper cap, a fair complexion, grey whiskers, and a well-marked forehead, especially where lie the perceptive faculties. His eyes were deeply sunk in his head, and he was by nature a silent man. In the kitchen behind, "washing up" after dinner, was his help-mate, Mrs. Quale. Although so well to do, and having generally a lodger, she kept no servant—"wouldn't be bothered with 'em," she said—but did her own work; a person coming in once a week to clean.

A rattling commotion in the street caused Peter Quale to look up from his book. A large pleasure-van had come rumbling down it, and was drawing up at the next door to his. "Nancy!" called out he to his wife.

"Well?" came forth, in a brisk, bustling voice, from the depths of the kitchen.

"The Shucks, and that lot, be actually going off now!"

The news appeared to excite the curiosity of Mrs. Quale, and she came hastily in; a dark-eyed, rosy-cheeked little woman, with black curls and a neat white

cap, well dressed in a plum-coloured striped gown of some thin woollen material, a black apron, and a coarse apron pinned over that. She was an inveterate busy-body, knew every incident that took place in Daffodil's Delight, and possessed a free and easy tongue, but was a kindly woman withal, and very popular. She put her head outside the window above the geraniums, to reconnoitre.

"Oh, they be going, sure enough! Well, they are fools! That's just like Slippery Sam! By to-morrow they won't have a threepenny piece to bless themselves with. But, if they must have went, they might have started earlier in the day. There's the Whites! And why!—there's the Dunns! The van won't hold 'em all. As for the Dunns, they'll have to pinch for a month after it. She has got on a dandy new bonnet with pink ribbons. Aren't some folks idiots, Peter?"

Peter rejoined, with a sort of a grunt, that it wasn't no business of his, and applied himself again to his pipe and book. Mrs. Quale made everybody's business hers, especially their failings and short-comings; and she unpinned the coarse apron, flung it aside, and flew off to the next house.

It was inhabited by two families, the Shucks and the Baxendales. Samuel Shuck, usually called Slippery Sam, was an idle, oily-tongued chap, always slipping from work—hence the nickname—and spending at the "Bricklayers' Arms" what ought to have been spent upon his wife and children. John Baxendale was a quiet, reserved man, living respectably with his wife and daughter, but not saving. It was singular how improvident most of them were. Daffodil's Delight was chiefly inhabited by the workmen of the Messrs. Hunter; they seemed to love to congregate there as in a nest. Some of the houses were crowded with them, a family on a floor—even in a room; others rented a house to themselves, and lived in comfort.

Assembled inside Sam Shuck's front room, which was a kitchen and not a parlour, and to which the house door opened, were as many people as it could hold, all in their holiday attire. Abel White, his wife and family; Jim Dunn, ditto; Patrick Ryan and the childer, (Pat's wife was dead); and John Baxendale and his daughter, besides others; the whole host of little Shucks, and half-a-dozen outside stragglers. Mrs. Quale might well wonder how all the lot could be stuffed into the pleasure-van. She darted into their midst.

"You never mean to say you be a going off, like simpletons, at this time o' day?" quoth she.

"Yes, we be," answered Sam Shuck, a lanky, serpent sort of man in frame, with a prominent black-eye, a turned-up nose, and, as has been said, an oily tongue. "What have you got to say again it, Mrs. Quale? come!"

"Say!" said that lady, undauntedly, but in a tone of reason, rather than rebuke, "I say you may just as well fling your money in the gutter, as go off to Epping at three o'clock in the afternoon. Why didn't you start in the morning? If I hired a pleasure-van, I'd have my money's worth out of it."

"It's just this here," said Sam. "It was ordered to be here as St. Paul's great bell was a striking break o' day, but the wheels wasn't greased; and they have been all this while a greasing 'em with the best fresh butter at eighteen pence a pound, had up from Devonshire on purpose."

"You hold your tongue, Sam," reprimanded Mrs. Quale. "You have been a greasing your throat pretty strong, I see, with a extra pot or two; you'll be in for it as usual before the day's out. How is it you are going now?" she added, turning to the women.

"It's just the worst managed thing as I ever had to do

with," volubly spoke up Jim Dunn's wife, Hannah. "And it's all the fault o' the men, as everything as goes wrong always is. There was a quarrel yesterday over it, and nothing was settled, and this morning when we met, they began a jawing again. Some would go, and some wouldn't; some 'ud have a van to the Forest, and some 'ud take a omnibus ride up to the Zoological Gardens, and see the beasts, and finish up at the play; some 'ud sit at home, and smoke and drink, and wouldn't go nowhere; and most of the men got off to the 'Bricklayers' Arms' and stuck there; and afore the difference was settled in favour of the van and the Forest, twelve o'clock struck, and then there was dinner to be had, and us to put ourselves to rights, and the van to be seen after. And there it is, now three o'clock's gone."

"It'll be just a ride out, and a ride in," cried Mrs. Quale; "for you won't have much time to stop. Money must be plentiful with you, a fooling it away like that. I thought some of you had better sense."

"We spoke against it, father and I," said quiet Mary Baxendale, in Mrs. Quale's ear; "but as we had given our word to join it and share in the expense, we didn't like to go from it again. Mother doesn't feel strong to-day, so she's stopping at home."

"It does seem stupid to start at this late hour," spoke up a comely woman, mild in speech, Robert Darby's wife. "Better to have put it off till to-morrow, and taken another day's holiday, as I told my master. But when it was decided to go, we didn't say nay, for I couldn't bear to disappoint the children."

The children were already being lifted into the van. Sundry baskets and bundles, containing provisions for tea, and stone bottles of porter for the men, were being lifted in also. Then the general company got in, Daffodil's Delight, those not bound on the expedition, assembling to witness the ceremony, and Peter casting an eye at it from his parlour. After much packing, and stowing, and laughing, and jesting, and the gentlemen declaring the ladies must sit upon their laps three deep, the van and its four horses moved off, and went lumbering down Daffodil's Delight.

Mrs. Quale, after watching the last of it, was turning into her own gate, when she heard a tapping at the window of the tenement on the *other* side her house. Upon looking round, it was thrown open, and a portly matron, dressed almost well enough for a lady, put out her head. She was the wife of George Stevens, a very well-to-do workman, and most respectable man.

"Are they going off to the Forest at this hour, that lot?"

"Ay," returned Mrs. Quale; "was ever such nonsense known? I'd have made a day of it, if I had went. They'll get home at midnight, I expect, fit to stand on their heads. Some of the men have had a'most as much as is good for 'em, now."

"I say," continued Mrs. Stevens, "George says, will you and your master come in for an hour or two this evening, and eat a bit of supper with us? We shall have a nice dish o' beef steaks and onions, or some relishing thing of that sort, and the Cheeks are coming."

"Thank ye," said Mrs. Quale. "I'll ask Peter. But don't go and get anything hot, now."

"I must," was the answer. "We had a shoulder of lamb yesterday, and we finished it up to-day for dinner, with a salad; so there's nothing cold in the house, and I'm forced to get a bit of something. I say, don't make it late; come at six. George—he's off somewhere, but he'll be in."

Mrs. Quale nodded acquiescence, and went indoors. Her husband was reading and smoking still.

"I'd have put it off till ten at night, and went then!" ironically cried she, in allusion to the departed pleasure-party. "A bickering and contending they have been over it, Hannah Dunn says; couldn't come to an agreement what they'd do, or what they wouldn't do! Did you ever see such a load? Them poor horses 'll have enough of it, if the others don't. I say, the Stevenses want us to go in there to supper to-night. Beef steaks and onions."

Peter's head was bent attentively over a map in his book, and it continued so bent for a minute or two. Then he raised it. "Who's to be there?"

"The Cheeks," she said. "I'll make haste and put the kettle on, and we'll have our tea as soon as it boils. She says don't go in later than six."

Pinning on the coarse apron, Mrs. Quale passed into the kitchen to her work. From the above slight sketch, it may be gathered that Daffodil's Delight was, take it for all in all, in tolerably comfortable circumstances. But for the wasteful mode of living generally pervading it; the improvidence both of husbands and wives; the spending where they need not have spent, and in things they would have been better without—it would have been in *very* comfortable circumstances; for, as is well known, no class of operatives earn better wages than those connected with the building trade.

"Is this Peter Quale's?"

The question proceeded from a stranger, who had entered the house passage, and thence the parlour, after knocking at its door. Peter raised his eyes, and beheld a tall, young, very gentlemanlike man: one of courteous manners, for he lifted his hat as he spoke, though Peter was only a workman and had a paper cap on his head.

"I am Peter Quale," said Peter, without moving.

Perhaps you may have already guessed that it was Austin Clay. He stepped forward with a frank smile. "I am sent here," he said, "by the Messieurs Hunter. They desired me to inquire for Peter Quale."

Peter was not wont to put himself out of the way for strangers: had a Duke Royal vouchsafed him a visit, I question if Peter would have been more than barely civil; but he knew his place with respect to his employers, and what was due to them—none better; and he rose up at their name, and took off his paper cap, and laid his pipe inside the fender, and spoke a word of apology to the gentleman before him.

"Pray do not mention it: do not disturb yourself," said Austin, kindly. "My name is Clay. I have just entered into an engagement with the Messieurs Hunter, and am now in search of lodgings as conveniently near their yard as may be. Mr. Henry Hunter said he thought you had rooms which might suit me: hence my intrusion."

"Well, sir, I don't know," returned Peter, rather dubiously. He was one of those who are apt to grow bewildered with any sudden proposition; requiring time, as may be said, to take it in, before he could digest it. "You are from the country, sir, may be?"

"I am from the country. I arrived in London but an hour ago, and my portmanteau is yet at the station. I wish to settle where I shall lodge, before I go to get it. Have you rooms to let?"

"Here, Nancy, come in!" cried Peter to his wife. "The rooms are in readiness to be shown, aren't they?"

Mrs. Quale required no second call. Hearing a strange voice, and gifted in a remarkable degree with what we are taught to look upon as her sex's failing—curiosity—she had already discarded again the apron, and made her appearance in time to receive the question.

"Ready and waiting," answered she. "And two

better rooms, for their size, you won't find, sir, search London through," she said, volubly, turning to Austin. "They are on the first floor—a nice sitting-room, and a bedchamber behind it. The furniture—all good, and clean, and handsome; for, when we was buying of it, we didn't spare a few pounds, knowing such would keep good to the end. Please step up and take a look at 'em."

Austin acquiesced, motioning to her to lead the way. She dropped a curtsey as she passed him, as if in apology for taking it. He followed, and Peter brought up the rear, a dim notion penetrating Peter's brain that it was due from him to attend one sent by the Messrs. Hunter.

Two good rooms, as she had said, small, but well fitted up. "You'd be sure to be comfortable, sir," cried Mrs. Quale to Austin; "for if I can't make lodgers comfortable, I don't know who can. Our last gentleman came to us three years ago, and left but a month since. He was a barrister's clerk, but he didn't get well paid, and he lodged in this part for cheapness."

"The rooms would suit me, so far as I can judge," said Austin, looking round; "suit me very well indeed, if we can agree upon terms. My pocket is but a shallow one at present," he laughed.

"I would make *them* easy enough for any gentleman sent by the masters," struck in Peter. "Did you say your name was Clay, sir?"

"Clay," assented Austin.

Mrs. Quale wheeled round at this, and took a free, full view of the gentleman from head to foot. "Clay? Clay?" she repeated to herself. "And there is a likeness, if ever I saw one! Sir," she hastily inquired, "do you come from the neighbourhood of Ketterford?"

"I come from Ketterford itself," replied he.

"Ah, but you were not born right in the town. I think you must be Austin Clay, sir—the orphan son of Mr. Clay and his wife—Miss Austin that used to be. They lived at the Nash farm. Sir, I have had you upon my lap scores of times when you were a little one."

"Why—who are you?" exclaimed Austin.

"You can't have forgot old Mr. Austin, the great-uncle, sir? though you were only seven years old when he died. I was cook to the old gentleman. Many a fruit puff have I made for you, Master Austin; many a currant cake: how things come round in this world! Do take our rooms, sir—it will seem like serving my old master over again."

"I will take them willingly, and be glad to fall into such good hands. You will not require references now?"

Mrs. Quale laughed. Peter grunted resentfully. References from anybody sent by the Messrs. Hunter! "I would say eight shillings a week, sir," said Peter, looking at his wife. "Pay as you like: monthly, or quarterly, or any way."

"That's less than I expected," said Austin, in his candour. "Mr. Henry Hunter thought they would be about ten shillings."

Peter was candid also. "There's the neighbourhood to be took into consideration, sir, which is not a good one, and we can only let according to it. In some parts—and not far off, neither—you'd pay eighteen or twenty shillings for such rooms as these; but in Daffodil's Delight it's different. The last gentleman paid us nine. If eight will suit you, sir, it will suit us."

So the bargain was struck; and Austin Clay went back to the station for his luggage, while Mrs. Quale, busy as a bee, ran in to tell her neighbour, Mrs. Stevens, that she could not be one of the beefsteak-and-onion

caters that night, though Peter might, for she should have her hands full with their new lodger. "The nicest, handsomest young fellow," she wound up with, "one it'll be a pleasure to wait on."

"Take care what you be at, if he's a stranger," cried cautious Mrs. Stevens. "There's no trusting those country folks: they run away sometimes. It looks odd, don't it, to come after lodgings one minute, and enter upon 'em the next?"

"Very odd," laughed Mrs. Quale. "Why, it was Mr. Henry Hunter sent him round, and he has got a post in their house. What he's to be there, who knows? but above us workpeople, we may depend on't. And as to himself, I knew him as a baby. It was in his mother's family I lived before ever I married Peter Quale. He's as like his mother as two peas, and a handsome woman was Mrs. Clay. Good bye: I'm going to get the sheets on to his bed now."

Mrs. Quale, however, found that she was, after all, able to "assist" at the supper; for, when Austin came back, it was only to dress himself and go out. He had been invited to dine at Mr. Henry Hunter's.

It so happened that business was remarkably brisk with the Hunters that spring. They could scarcely get hands enough. And when Austin explained the cause which had brought him to town, and frankly proffered the question—could they recommend him to any employment? they were too glad to offer it themselves. He produced his credentials of capacity and character, and was engaged forthwith. At present his duties were to be partly in the counting-house, partly in overlooking the men; and the salary offered was twenty-five pounds per quarter.

"I can rise above that in time, I suppose," said Austin, smiling, "if I give satisfaction?"

Mr. Hunter smiled too. "Ay, you can rise above that, if you choose. But when you get on, you'll be doing, I expect, as most of the rest do."

"What is that, sir?"

"Leaving us, to set up for yourself. Numbers have done so as soon as they have become valuable. I do not speak of the men, but of those who have been with us in a higher capacity. A few of the men, though, have done the same; some have risen into influence."

"How can they do that without capital?" inquired Austin. "It must take money, and a good deal of it, to set up for themselves."

"Not so much as you may think. They begin in a small way—take piece-work, and work early and late, often fourteen and fifteen hours a day, husbanding their earnings, and getting a capital together by slow but sure degrees. Many of our most important firms have so risen, and owe their present positions to sheer hard work, patience, and energy."

"It was the way in which Mr. Thornimett rose," observed Austin. "He was once a journeyman at fourteen shillings a week. He got together money by working over hours."

"Ay, there's nothing like it for the industrious man," said Mr. Hunter.

At six, Austin was at Mr. Henry Hunter's. Mrs. Henry Hunter, a very pretty and very talkative woman, welcomed him with both hands, and told her children to do the same, for it was "the gentleman who had saved papa." There was no ceremony: he was received quite *en famille*; no other guest was present, and three or four of the children dined at table. He appeared to find favour with them all. He talked on business matters with Mr. Henry Hunter; on lighter topics with his wife; he pointed out some errors in Mary Hunter's drawings,

which she somewhat ostentatiously exhibited to him, and showed her how to rectify them; entered into the school-life of the two boys, from their classics to their scrapes; and nursed a pretty little lady of five, who insisted on appropriating his knee—bearing himself throughout all with the modest reticence—the refinement of the innate gentleman. Mrs. Henry Hunter was charmed with him.

"How do you think you shall like your quarters?" she asked. "Mr. Hunter told me he recommended you to Peter Quale's."

"Very much. Mrs. Quale, it appears, is an old friend of mine."

"An old friend! Of yours!"

"She claims me as one, and says she has nursed me many a time when I was a child. I had quite forgotten her, and all about her, though I now do remember her name. She was formerly a servant in my mother's family, near Ketterford."

Thus Austin Clay had succeeded without difficulty in obtaining employment, and was, moreover, received on a footing of equality in the house of Mr. Henry Hunter. We shall see how he gets on.

AMONG SOUTH SEA CANNIBALS.

A PARTY of French missionaries, headed by a Popish bishop, left London at the beginning of 1845. I don't remember the exact date of their arrival in Sydney, if I ever heard, but it was about June or July that I first saw them there. The bishop was then negotiating with a friend of mine, who commanded the "Marian Watson," for the use of that vessel to convey the mission to New Caledonia, together with a number of animals which he intended to leave at the different missionary stations of the bishopric of Melanesia. I had been two years in the colony, which I had spent chiefly in the bush, learning the business of sheep-farming. I had begun to find this very tiresome; and, happening to meet the commander of the "Marian Watson" in Sydney, where I had come to transact business, in the course of our conversation he told me of his arrangements, and happened to say that there would be a difficulty in communicating with the Frenchmen, in consequence of only one of them speaking English, and he but indifferently. Tired of bush life, and longing for new scenes, I offered to make the cruise with him, when my services would be useful as an interpreter, as well as in other ways. The bishop had already made most of his purchases, and there remained little to do beyond putting them on board.

At the very beginning of the voyage an incident occurred which had considerable influence on the men's cheerfulness. This was the jumping overboard of a rat, just as we were getting well out to sea, which, after swimming round a circle two or three times, struck out in the direction of the shore. I believe it went over to escape from the pigs; for these animals seemed to have a great taste for rats, and I had myself seen them wrangling over one not long before, and I told the men so; but they preferred to believe that the act was a voluntary one on the part of the rat, and indicative of misfortune to the ship.

The voyage was what voyages usually are—monotonous, but pleasant to those in good health and spirits. The first place we touched at was New Caledonia, at which the French have since formed a settlement. At this time the natives were savages in the fullest sense of the word. They wore no clothes; every man seemed to do exactly as he pleased; they were lazy, idle, and with-

out any notion of morality, as far as I could learn; they hated work, and what little was done in that way was done by the women. As there was no game in the woods, or other animals in sufficient abundance to supply them with food, the different tribes were constantly at war, or rather, I should say, in a state of warfare, for it was carried on in a desultory kind of way, by small parties, and for purposes of subsistence. Thus, half-a-dozen, or from that to twenty men, who were without food, would take their clubs and spears, and set off towards the nearest tribe. Supposing they happened to meet a party of that tribe which was about equal to their own, a fight ensued, and the victors, as soon as it was over, lighted a fire and cooked one or more of the beaten party and made a feast. They seemed to make no secret of their way of living.

It would seem almost entirely for the sake of food, and not from the mere love of bloodshed, that they make these incursions into each other's territories. One of the natives told us that, in an expedition in which he had been engaged with several others, they had met a party coming from the tribe to which they were going; that they had a long fight, and several were killed on both sides without either showing signs of giving way, when somebody proposed a truce, and they actually feasted close together that night, each party devouring those they had killed. Plenty of other tales of a similar kind we got from him and others, from which I inferred that the people had not the faintest conception of there being anything sacred in human life, or that any principle was involved in the slaying of a fellow creature.

We touched at several islands in succession, and had no reason to complain of any want of friendly feeling on the part of the natives, until we arrived at Isabel Island. The point at which we first anchored was held by a tribe who received us as well as usual; but, after we had been here a few days, the bishop announced his intention of visiting the other tribes of the island. By some means or other the natives heard of this, and gave us plenty of warnings that if we went among the other people they would attack us. The sailors did not much like the idea of going, because they had also heard that the water was very shallow everywhere along the coast, and it would be necessary for them to land the missionaries in the boat, and thus expose themselves to be killed by the savages: a risk which had not been taken into consideration in the agreement respecting wages. There was no help for it, however, for the contract with the bishop entitled him to take the vessel to any of the islands included in the group known as the Solomon Islands.

We sailed from our anchorage at daybreak, but the wind was so light that we made but slow progress. We were obliged to coast along at a considerable distance from the shore, from not knowing how closely we could approach with safety; but with the glass I could distinguish groups of natives, at short distances apart, watching the course of the vessel. When we arrived off that part of the island on which the bishop decided to land, it wanted about two hours to sunset, and he desired to go ashore at once; but the captain refused to land him at that hour, from the fear that the boat would not get back to the ship before nightfall. The ship was run in until the lead showed that we were as near the shore as it was advisable to go, and then the anchor was let down, the watch arranged for the night, with the care necessary to our position, and every man amused himself in the best way he could, till it was time to turn in. As for the savages, they mustered strongly at the water's edge, and remained there till it was too dark to distinguish them.

The boat was lowered directly after breakfast the next morning, and I got in with four men and the steward, who went with us to see if he could buy anything in the shape of provisions. Then came the bishop and four priests, and as soon as they were seated I gave the order to pull ashore. There seemed to me to be a larger number of savages waiting for us than I had seen together at any place before, and most of them held spears in their hands; but this was usual, and did not excite alarm or suspicion. The bishop landed first, and was followed by the priests and myself. He walked boldly up to the chief of the savages, who was standing a little apart from the rest, and they conversed together. As I did not understand the dialect, I could not follow their discussion, so I turned my attention to the savages themselves. I stepped up to one who was standing near the chief, and took his spear from his hand to look at it. He made no objection, nor did two or three others, whose weapons I examined in a similar manner; they only stared at me doubtfully, as if they had a faint idea that I intended to use it against them, in the way in which they had been accustomed to use it against others, but were nevertheless afraid to refuse to let go their hold. Not myself thinking of danger, I paid very little attention to the proceedings of the missionaries, till one of them called to me by name, and said they were going on board, as the chief of the savages was demanding everything they had about them, including the bishop's signet ring, in a threatening manner, and, he thought, intended to murder us. While he was still speaking, the bishop began his retreat to the boat, surrounded by the priests, the natives beginning to crowd upon us as if each were anxious to get a share of whatever there was to be had; but I don't think, at that moment, they had any fixed intention of murdering us. We were a good distance from the boat, and it occurred to me all of a sudden, that the best chance of reaching it in safety was by showing no sign of fear. Unarmed as we were, I never thought of defending myself. By a sudden and perhaps fortunate impulse, I threw my arm round the neck of the native whose spear I had first taken, and we all moved towards the boat in a tumultuous manner, the missionaries keeping a calm face in spite of the threatening attitude of the natives. I was unable to get quite close to them; but I could see all that was passing, over the heads of the savages, who had forced themselves between us. The chief kept in front of the bishop, and seemed bent on getting something belonging to him, which he would not give up. He moved backwards a few yards, and, as we still continued moving towards the boat, I suppose he was afraid the object, whatever it was, he coveted, would be lost to him. Thereupon he made a thrust with his spear at the bishop, and this was the signal for every savage near to thrust at the missionaries likewise, and hit at them with their clubs. First one fell under the blows, then another; but they struggled to their feet again, and, without an attempt to retaliate, they seemed bent solely on shielding the bishop, who, covered with blood, still staggered along with their support, until I lost sight of them altogether. I may as well mention here, that I was told, on getting back to Sydney months afterwards, that the bishop died of the injuries received on this occasion, but that the priests escaped with slight wounds. As for me, nobody struck me, their whole attention being directed to the priests; but I could not attempt to escape without using force, for the savage around whose neck I had thrown my arm had taken hold of me in return, and held me tightly; and, although he showed no sign of a desire to hurt me, he seemed determined that I should not leave

him. Presently I heard firing, and there was a general rush away from the sea, in which I was carried along till we came to the village, which I imagine to have been nearly a mile inland.

As soon as we got here, I became the object of general attention. I was surrounded by a dense crowd of savages of both sexes, my proprietor always keeping hold of me, but whether to protect me from harm, or by way of maintaining his right in me, I cannot tell. When the savage returned who had led the attack on the missionaries, he also came to see me, and I suppose it was by his directions that they began to strip me of my clothes. They examined each article in succession, but did not appropriate them; and when they had stared at my skin sufficiently, no objection was made to my putting them on again. This, indeed, formed a part of their amusement for several days. I could not understand what they said, neither could I form any idea of their intentions respecting me. They fed me very well, so far as quantity was concerned; but there was no variety. It consisted of a kind of bread made of maize and the roots of plants rubbed to a paste in a hollow stone, which they sometimes scooped out with their hands and laid on a leaf, and at other times dried on a hot stone over a fire.

Day succeeded day, and all hope of making my escape and reaching the "Marian Watson" became extinct. I was subject to constant anxiety and dread. At every meal that was brought to me, the idea would force itself upon me that they were only kind to me because they wanted to get me fat for a grand feast; and, painful as this idea was, it had one good effect—if the savages really had the intention of eating me—it kept me thin, in spite of want of exercise. I was never allowed to leave the hut except at rare intervals, when the man whom I regarded as my proprietor, accompanied by six or seven other savages, took me with them for a ramble in the woods, without any apparent object.

The first indication I had that they had no immediate intention of killing me was when, one day, my proprietor came with the chief and several others, all belted tightly round the waist with plaited grass, which grew here very long and tough. A spear was put into my hand, with gestures indicating that I was to use it against somebody or something, to be found in a certain direction.

The habit I had acquired in Australia, of carrying provisions when going into the bush in search of stray cattle, was probably the reason why I, on this occasion, put all that I had in the hut that was eatable into my pocket; and it was lucky for me that I did. We prowled through the woods all day without killing anything, and, except myself, nobody had anything to eat except a few roots. They knew I had something better, but they did not ask me to share it with them, and I did not make the offer, because I did not know when I should get any more. It was quite dusk before they made up their minds to stop for the night, and then they made signs that I was to lie down and go to sleep. I laid down, but it was very long before I slept, for I was in horrible dread that they meant to take advantage of my sleeping to butcher me, and it was in spite of my utmost efforts to keep awake that I at last became unconscious. When I woke and saw their dark visages about me, I thought for a moment that I was in New South Wales again, and when I remembered where I was, and found that I was still alive, along with gratitude I felt a thrill of satisfaction which was quite a novelty to me.

Soon after we began our march in the morning—if that could be called a march which resembled very much the prowling hither and thither of a wild beast in search

of prey—we came to a river into which they all plunged, a species of refreshment I was very glad to share with them. They continued enjoying themselves in the water while I was dressing, and as soon as I was ready they started afresh. All that day was spent like the preceding, and at its close I was glad to chew a root which one of them offered me, for the little food I had been able to put in my pocket I had eaten, and, from having been without much exercise for such a long time, I was so tired I could scarcely get along. This weariness had one advantage—it made me dead to fear, and I fell asleep the very instant I lay down.

[To be continued.]

ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.

A DAY AT THE OBSERVATORY—continued.

BY EDWIN DUNKIN, ESQ., F.R.A.S.

THE equatorials must now occupy our attention. There are three specimens of this class of astronomical instrument at the Observatory; but it will not be necessary to devote any great length of time to them, as their use is of a more occasional nature than the two instruments of which we have already spoken.

Visiting them according to seniority, the first is one constructed by Ramsden, placed in a dome near the octagon room. This instrument was presented to the Observatory in the year 1811, by Sir G. Shuckburgh. It was first intended to be mounted as an altazimuth, but, from its general unsteadiness in that position, it was never used. Subsequently, it was erected where it now remains, and is occasionally used for observations of occultations of stars by the moon, eclipses of Jupiter's satellites, and a few other astronomical phenomena.

The next in order is the Sheepshanks equatorial, erected in 1838. It is rather more than eight feet in length, and its object-glass is nearly seven inches in diameter. This instrument is placed in a dome, east of the transit-circle room. The mounting is that usually known by the name of the Fraunhofer, or German mounting, the telescope being on one side of the axis, and counterpoised by weights on the other. Clock-work is attached to the instrument, to carry the telescope with a motion equal to the diurnal rotation of the earth on its axis.

The chief use made of this equatorial has been for the observation of comets, occultations, etc., and the measurement of the distances of double stars. The latter class of observations is made with a double-image micrometer, which is capable of measuring small distances with great accuracy. The shapes of Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, have been well determined with this micrometer.

But by far the largest and most noble instrument in the Observatory is the great equatorial, recently erected at great cost. The object-glass, which is 12½ inches in diameter, was purchased of Messrs. Merz, of Munich, for about £1200, including expenses. The iron castings for the supports of the telescope, and the engineer's work generally, were made by Messrs. Ransomes, of Ipswich, and the general optician's work by Mr. Simms, of London.

The appearance of this beautiful instrument never fails to astonish the visitor who is favoured with the privilege of a personal inspection of its peculiarities and improvements over other telescopes similarly mounted; it is, however, totally impossible to convey to the mind of the reader, in what manner these improvements differ from other instruments, without entering into the mechanical detail of all its parts; he must therefore take

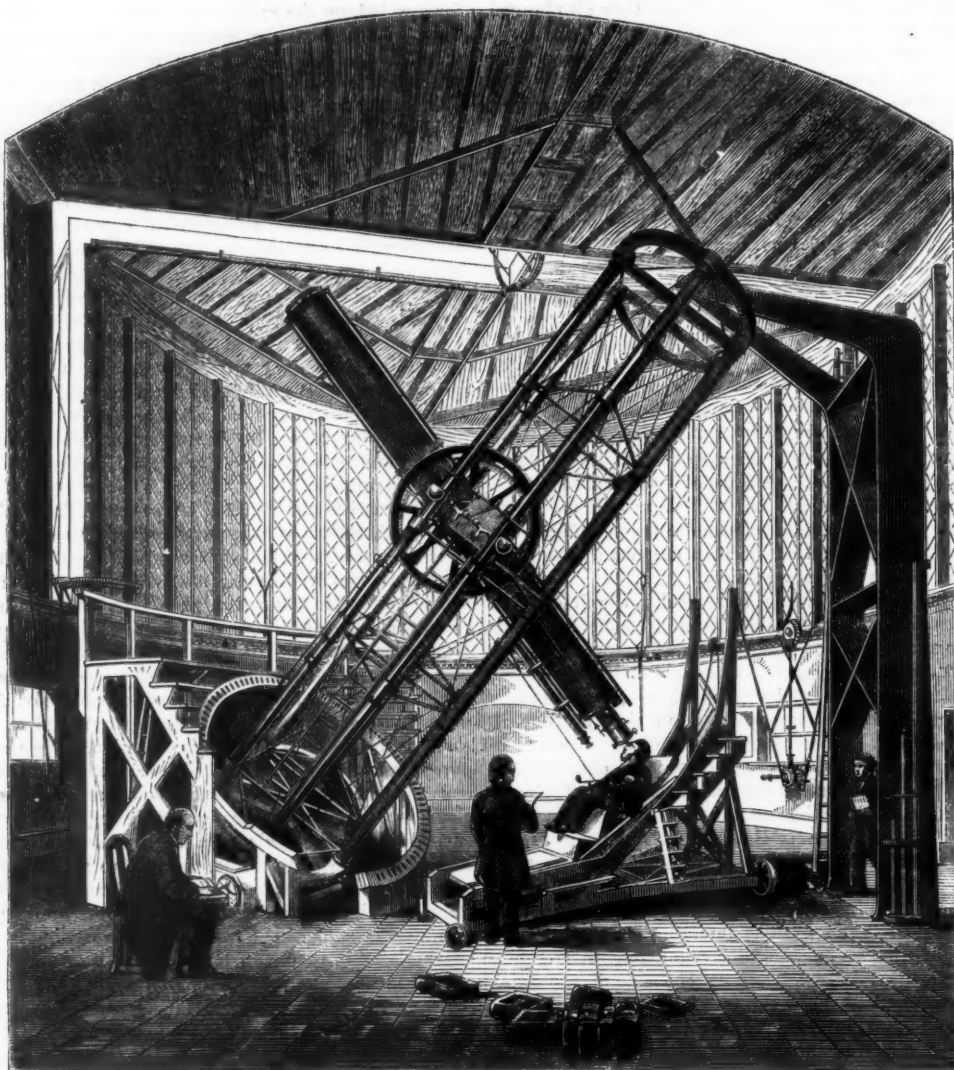
for granted, on the evidence of those best able to judge, that, as a specimen of astronomical engineering, it is considered to be a triumph of mechanical constructive art, which no other country but Britain could have produced. And we must add, that, taking into account its great stability, in conjunction with its unique construction, it is one of the most important astronomical instruments to be found in any country.

This equatorial is provided with all the necessary adjuncts for making astronomical extra-meridional observations in every branch of the science. It is furnished with microscopes for reading the graduated circles, eyepieces of different powers and construction, and other appliances too numerous to mention. If the position of a planet or star be wanted; if the magnitude or diameter of Jupiter, Saturn, or any object having a disc, be required; or, if the rapid changes noticed during an eclipse of the sun are to be measured, or, indeed, the observation of any other phenomenon, this instrument, in the hands of a skilful observer, will give results which no one can doubt.

But there is one contrivance, in connection with this equatorial, which is very striking to the uninitiated. It is necessary, when an object is under scrutiny, that it should remain visible for a considerable time in the same position, in order that the observer might be able to give all his attention to the object of his inquiries. Now, everybody who has, for amusement or otherwise, watched a celestial object in a telescope fitted with a moderately high magnifying power, could not fail to perceive that it is continually passing out of view. The earth is performing its daily revolution, giving an apparent motion to the stars. The astronomer, however, has adapted to most equatorials of moderate size a clock movement, which is generally regulated by balls suspended to the ends of a horizontal arm which is carried by a vertical spindle, the motive power being a weight. In this great equatorial the moving power is water, supplied direct from the waterworks. The force of water is sufficient for working a reaction machine (Barker's mill), revolving four times in a second. This, acting through two worm-screws, drives the massive instrument. The regulation is effected by a beautiful contrivance, called Sieman's chronometric governor; the pendulum, which is mercurial, has a uniform conical motion. The success of this apparatus may be understood, when we state that, on one occasion, the instrument was left with Jupiter visible near the central wire of the telescope, and, on the return of the observer, after an interval of more than an hour, the planet was still there, so wonderfully accurate is the adjustment.

We have now visited the principal instruments which sustain the character of our national Observatory in the eyes of the scientific world; much, however, that remains to be described, though also interesting in the highest degree to the *savant*, is intimately connected with the active business of life. Before entering upon this connection with the outer world, one small but important instrument claims a passing word. This is the reflex zenith tube, an instrument designed for the observation of one special star in Draco, which passes across the zenith at Greenwich. We are afraid the subject would be of too technical a nature to warrant a proper explanation of its theory and use; we must therefore pass it over with this slight notice.

Perhaps in no department of the Observatory is greater activity apparent, during the morning, than in that relating to the business of chronometers and the dissemination of correct time to various parts of England by means of the electric telegraph.



THE GREAT EQUATORIAL.

Once more, then, let us enter the passage leading to the altazimuth, and proceed up a narrow staircase near the entrance. We are now in the chronometer room; and what a wonderful instance of the proof of our maritime power is this apartment! On entering, the visitor is startled by a universal buzz, which sounds almost like the hum of the beehive; sometimes more than two hundred chronometers, all delicate specimens of ingenious workmanship, are stored here at one time. Everybody has heard the ticking of his watch, when placed on the looking-glass at night; fancy, then, the indescribable sensation of listening to so many as two hundred chronometers, all registering the time independently of each other, the ticking being considerably louder than ordinary pocket watches. In this room are kept in store, and rated, all chronometers belonging to the Admiralty which are not required for the immediate use of her Majesty's navy. Many of these before us are, however, placed here by the makers, on a competitive trial for purchase, the chronometers keeping the best time, with the least change of rate, being bought by the Admiralty, after they have undergone a severe

trial in different temperatures. A large closet, heated by gas, is in the corner of the room, for the reception of the chronometers when under trial for high temperatures.

Let us follow the assistant, who is now busily engaged. He opens the lid of each box, winds the chronometer, then proceeds to the next in order, and so on till the whole are wound up. It is then the duty of another assistant to follow over the same ground, to prevent any accidental passing over. When the winding is completed, one assistant takes his seat at a table, writes down in a book the numbers called out by the other, who is comparing each chronometer with one of the sympathetic galvanic clocks, which always shows correct time. The rapidity with which this is done is perfectly astonishing, especially when it is considered that the comparison is made to tenth parts of a second. No one, without considerable practice, can hope to rival the skill of the observers in this department. It is of no use, therefore, lingering too long in this room; but we leave it, gratified in no small degree at the thought that our noble ships can obtain an instrument brought by modern improvements to such a high state



THE OBSERVATORY, WITH THE TIME-BALL ON THE EAST TURRET. (From a photograph by J. Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S.)

of excellence, and then preserved and rated so accurately for their use, that they may be able to traverse the ocean from shore to shore in safety.

The business of the chronometric department is very extensive; in addition to the duties already mentioned, the management of the repairs of defective chronometers, as well as the issuing and receiving them to and from the ships in commission, is under the superintendence of the Astronomer-Royal. The Observatory, therefore, performs a national duty, which can well be appreciated by all who take an interest in the welfare of the navy.

The great discoveries and appliances in galvanic science have added very important labours to the establishment. It is not our intention to enter into the history of the progress of the application of galvanism to practical purposes, further than to show its connection with the duties which the Observatory has imposed upon itself for the benefit of the country. Who, in the most distant corner of England, has not heard, at one time or other, a controversy between the advocates of the time indicated by the old church clock, and those modern innovators, who desire that all the different local times should be made to agree with the railway time, which is the same all over the country? Now, "railway time" is nothing more or less than Greenwich time, which is sent by signal to the different railroad stations directly or indirectly from the Observatory.

The uniform time of starting trains depends, therefore, in some measure, on the accuracy of the observations made in this establishment.

Every visitor to Greenwich Park, or indeed all who have sailed up or down the Thames, cannot have failed to notice a black ball on the east turret of the principal building of the Observatory. At five minutes to one P.M., this ball is raised half-mast, and at about two and a half minutes to one, to the top. Precisely at one the ball is dropped. This public exhibition of correct time has been of the utmost importance to the mariner, who is able to compare the going of his chronometer with Observatory time, without the trouble and expense of coming to Greenwich. How necessary it is to the sailor, before leaving the docks, to know the error of his time-piece, on which he must so constantly depend while steering his course far away from land! The captain of a vessel is always anxious to start with the power of obtaining Greenwich time at any hour of the day or night; he therefore, while stationed in the docks, ought to compare his chronometer at the same hour on several days in succession, by which means he determines how much it gains or loses in a day. A good instrument will generally have the same rate for a long period. On sailing, the officer knows the error of his chronometer; daily he adds the rate, and is thus able to fix his longitude from day to day by his sextant observations,

which gives him his local time, the difference of which, from his chronometric time, being the longitude from Greenwich.

This principle of exhibiting the correct time, by the dropping of a ball at a stated hour, has been carried out in various places throughout the country. At Deal, however, there is a ball dropped at one P.M., by a direct galvanic current from the Observatory, the ball being erected for the benefit of the shipping lying in the Downs. After the ball has dropped, a return current is transmitted from Deal a few seconds after one, to inform the assistant at Greenwich that the time of drop was correct. The value of this ball is very great, as it gives the master of each ship the opportunity of checking his chronometer at the last moment, before sailing on a long voyage.

Several other time-balls are dropped indirectly by the Greenwich galvanic current; but the Observatory is responsible at present only for that of Deal, which is placed by the Admiralty under the control of the Astronomer-Royal.

Clock signals are also sent automatically, every two seconds to the London Bridge Railway Station, regulating a large clock which is kept by this means identical with the parent or motor clock at Greenwich. Hourly signals are also sent to this station for distribution to the different towns in Kent and Surrey, and to the Lothbury office of the Electric and International Telegraph Company, for the transmission of correct time to other parts of England. The observer of a clock-star with the transit-circle, accordingly plays no unimportant part in the internal economy of the nation, for, in this active age, many events may depend upon the accuracy of his observation.

None more so, perhaps, than in the business of the Post Office. It may be asked at once, What can the Observatory have to do with the Post Office? Surely there can be little connection between astronomy and sorting letters! But wait a moment. It will be shown that the two departments are intimately connected, for they carry on a quiet daily conversation, which, in its results, is of considerable importance. Those of our readers who may have stood in the great hall of the Post Office at six o'clock in the evening, and noticed the immense business going on till the last stroke of six, must also have seen that at that moment the boxes are suddenly shut: in an instant, in fact, the scene is changed. What would not some unfortunate individual have given if the last stroke of six had been delayed only a few seconds longer! but here punctuality is the law. Now, this punctuality is regulated by galvanic signals transmitted daily from the Royal Observatory. Perhaps the space will not be wasted if we explain briefly the process adopted, after many experiments, to bring the regulation of the Post Office clocks into good working order. At that establishment, there are four principal clocks, three at the chief office, in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and one, at the branch office, in Lombard Street. At a stated time before noon, a galvanic signal is sent by each of these clocks to the Observatory, giving notice to the observer by striking a bell, which informs him how many seconds it is in error. Exactly at noon, by a mechanical contrivance attached to the clocks, a signal from Greenwich sets them in accordance with the motor clock; and again, at a stated time after noon, signals are received at Greenwich to assure that the correction in each case has been satisfactorily performed. These duties are in this manner carried on day after day, connecting visibly, and in a tangible form, the quietness of the astronomer with the active business of life. Each of the four clocks

in question regulates a group of dependent clocks by local galvanic currents, in a manner nearly similar to that by which the Greenwich current at noon regulates these four principal clocks; and by these means, more than thirty are kept very nearly to accurate time.

For the convenience of the Observatory itself, galvanic sympathetic clocks, acted upon by the motor clock, are placed in several of the apartments, and an additional one of larger size, already mentioned, near the entrance gate. The latter is made much use of by the public, for the regulation of their watches. The majority, however, consider it is some mysterious clock placed there to puzzle the visitors, many of whom frequently devote a considerable time to understand the meaning of ten minutes past twenty-two, or half-past fifteen. There is generally some one sharper than the rest, who is able to explain this "curious" clock. Perhaps it is well to remark, that astronomers always begin the day at noon, and count the hours consecutively to the next noon.

The chief assistants, who are specially responsible in carrying out the instructions of the Astronomer-Royal, in the astronomical department of the Observatory, are Mr. Stone, first assistant; Mr. Dunkin, principal superintendent of astronomical instruments; and Mr. Ellis, who has the general charge of the clocks, chronometers, and galvanic arrangements.

We have now conducted the visitor through the astronomical observatory, offering brief explanations as we proceeded, of the peculiarities of the different instruments; it remains only, therefore, to take a walk to the magnetical and meteorological observatory, and our visit will be completed.

Proceeding, then, by the great equatorial, along a narrow path, and passing on the right the private garden of the Astronomer-Royal, we come upon a cross-like building, built of wood, pieces of bamboo instead of iron nails being used in its construction. A pole eighty feet high is erected near the entrance, to the upper part of which is attached a wire stretched across the grounds to the highest part of the Observatory, both ends being properly insulated. This wire is intended to collect the atmospheric electricity, which is conveyed to proper instruments inside the building, where it is examined and analysed.

The building contains three principal instruments, disposed so as to influence as little as possible one another's motions. One is a suspended magnet, intended to measure the magnetic declination, or variation of the needle; another, twisted, by means of the lines which suspend it, away from the magnetic meridian, so that it hangs nearly east and west, measuring the variation in the horizontal force of magnetism; while a third, which is similar to a beam of nicely-poised scales, without the scales attached, measures the variation in the vertical force. The deviations of these magnets were formerly observed every two hours, night and day; but for many years, thanks to the improvements in photography, the changes in the positions of the magnets have been automatically registered in a more effective manner, superseding entirely the system of day and night watches, practised for so many years.

It is impossible for us to enter into any detail of the processes employed in these self-registrations; it must suffice, therefore, to state that the deviations of the three magnets, the oscillations of the barometer, and the rise and fall of the thermometer, are daily recorded by a most interesting photographic manipulation. The daily sheets, when properly marked and timed, are preserved for reference, the principal deviations of the magnets being extracted for publication in the annual volume of "Greenwich Observations."

Besides the three principal magnetical instruments, a unifilar magnetometer has lately been mounted. This consists of an apparatus for deflection of a magnet, and another for vibration, corresponding to the two parts of the process by which the absolute horizontal force of magnetism is determined; the experiments of deflection consist in observing the angular deflection of a suspended magnet, produced by the influence of a second magnet, which is placed on a support at one or more distances from the suspended magnet; the experiments of vibration consist in suspending the magnet which was used as the deflecting magnet in the former experiment, and then observing its time of vibration.

Observations for the determination of the magnetic dip, or inclination of the needle, at Greenwich, are also regularly made.

In addition to the magnetical observations, the observers in this department note day by day, at stated hours, the height of the barometer, and of thermometers of various kinds placed in different positions. For example, the temperatures of the air in the sun and shade, of the dew-point, of the ground at depths varying from one inch to twenty-four feet, are daily recorded. Rain-gauges at different altitudes are measured; and the electrical instruments are watched at frequent intervals. The wind is registered automatically by three anemometers, Osler's being the principal. A large vane is carried by a hollow tube, which, at its lower end, near a small table in the western turret on the top of the Observatory, carries a toothed wheel. This wheel gives motion to a rack-work, furnished with a pencil, which is moved backwards and forwards as the wind changes the direction of the vane. The small table is moved by clock-work, so that, as it is carried forward, a line is made on the paper by the pencil. The sheet of paper is divided into equal spaces, equivalent to one hour's motion; the direction of the wind at any hour of the day or night is therefore very easily found. The instrument also registers the force of the wind, and the amount of rain. The other anemometers are chiefly to register the velocity of the wind.

Abstracts of the meteorological observations are sent weekly to the Registrar-General, and published in the weekly report of births and deaths.

The observations in the magnetical and meteorological observatory are made under the personal superintendence of Mr. Glaisher, so well known in the scientific world as a careful analyser of meteorological data.

The numerous duties which we have endeavoured to explain, and of which only an imperfect outline has been given, could not be performed without a considerable staff. With the Astronomer-Royal are associated seven permanent assistants, one assistant for special service at the magnetical department, and eleven supernumerary computers. All of these gentlemen perform their allotted work with fidelity and zeal, assisting to the utmost in upholding the scientific character of the establishment. That it ranks high in the estimation of men of science is evident from the eagerness with which they accept the invitation on the first Saturday in June of each year, to visit this active centre of astronomical progress, to admire and profit by the inspection of the noble instruments, which will bear comparison with those possessed by any other Observatory. At this annual gathering a report on the progress of the Observatory during the preceding year is read by the Astronomer-Royal before a select board of visitors.

From what has been said, it will be perceived that the assistant of the Observatory is not occupied in the most romantic portion of observing astronomy. His attention

is not generally directed to the gazing at planets or nebulae, or to the watching the appearances of the spots on the sun, or the mountains in the moon, which charms the amateur astronomer so much. But it is to the regular observation of the sun, moon, and planets, etc., when they pass the meridian night and day; to observe the position of the moon, day after day, with the altazimuth: observations which require not only every attention to the state of the instruments, but also imply such a mass of computations afterwards as none but professional astronomers could for a moment undertake. The interesting class of observations is not, however, entirely neglected, as several beautiful drawings of Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Donati's comet, have been made within the last few years.

Our Greenwich astronomer, in addition to his regular duties, is also supposed to devote some attention to astrology, if we consider the frequent applications made to him for some elucidation of the future events of life. This idea has evidently descended from a former period, when the astronomer rose very little higher than the astrologer in the estimation of the public. In those days the astronomical student had little hesitation in occasionally practising the black art, either on his own account or for the benefit of some anxious inquirer after the secrets of futurity, and, therefore, the astronomer and astrologer were frequently found in the same individual. Even the celebrated Flamsteed amused himself, on his accession to Greenwich, by drawing the horoscope of the Observatory—an accomplishment which few of the existing astronomers would acknowledge. The belief in nativity casting is considered in this educational age to be well-nigh exploded; but still there are many persons—and those not always the most humble in station—who believe that the Greenwich astronomer is not continually contemplating the starry heavens in vain. This is very evident from the fact of individuals calling frequently at the Observatory gate, requesting information about their future destiny; letters even have been received inclosing Post-Office orders, requesting a nativity cast in return. The writer of this article on one occasion received a visit from a well-dressed young female, in great distress at the absence of a relative in the Pacific, who had not been heard of for several years. She left in tears because the stars were not able to tell her whether he was alive! As a final example, however, of the march of intellect in the nineteenth century, we conclude by inserting a copy of a letter received a short time ago. "I have been informed that there are persons at this Observatory who will, by my inclosing a remittance and the time of my birth, give me to understand *who is to be my wife*. An early answer, stating all relative particulars, will greatly oblige."

OUR SHIP'S BLACK BEAR.

As a boy I have stood in the Palace Yard of St. James's, looking with wonder at the bearskin shakos of the Queen's Guards,* trying to realize the number of animals that must have been slain to produce them, and the effect that would result could they, then and there, take unto themselves the life and vigour they once enjoyed in their native woods. I do verily believe they

* In 1763, the importation into England alone of black bearskins from North America was to the amount of 10,500. The number increased annually till 1803, when about 25,000 were imported, the average value of each skin being forty shillings. At this rate the species (*Ursus Americanus*) must have been speedily extinct. Changes of fashion and costume have lessened the importation. The number is now about 10,000 annually, a large proportion of which are re-exported.

would have routed that royal regiment; and this I do not say in disparagement of those glorious heroes of Inkerman, but, as I have seen their brothers, the blue-jackets, fight shy of Bruin upon a first introduction, so do I believe myself justified in inferring that the red-coats would likewise quail before a charge of black bears.

We are accustomed to regard monkeys as the most mischievously amusing of dumb animals. As a rule, that may be the case; but I claim exception for a black bear, the pet of a fifty-gun frigate, than whom no monkey could be more frolicsome.

And here let me observe, that even Mr. Rarey might take a lesson in taming the brute creation from sailors; and this I say from pretty large experience, having sailed with bears of all colours, with alligators, condors, pumas—in fact, with one or more examples of each class in nature, and have never known sailors fail in striking up a friendship with the most ferocious.

Now for our pet. He was a native of Vancouver's Island, one of twins, whose mother had been shot, and may be at this moment represented by a grenadier's cap. When first secured he was very young, and was carefully reared by a Canadian voyageur, who brought him on board while we were lying in the snug and beautiful harbour of Esquimalt. At that time he was like a black ball of double fleecy wool, I suppose from not having had the proverbial maternal licking into shape, so necessary for all young cubs. He soon made himself at home with us, and became at once a great favourite with the naval cadets. On one occasion, the ship's company was arranged around the upper deck for inspection, and the first lieutenant was striding up and down, in all the glory of a well-cut pair of trowsers, for which he seemed, as a dandy, to have a great admiration, when something brushed against his legs. Upon looking down, he beheld his unexceptional pants beautifully whitened. The horror of his face, and the appearance of our pet, who scampered forward like a live ball of flour, was too much for the gravity of British sailors, and a volley of suppressed titters caused each officer at his quarters to call "silence!" The cub had taken advantage of the purser's steward's absence from the bread-room to indulge in flour, and, in his haste to enjoy it, had upset the bag all over him; the fall thereof and the dust so alarmed the thief, that he beat a hurried retreat, and came to quarters.

Our black bear grew rapidly both in size and mischievousness. He had his likes and dislikes, which he would show in an unpleasantly-marked manner. His favourite sleeping place was between the two aftermost guns on the main deck, where a hammock was spread for him at the time the men's hammocks were piped down; and his morning station was outside the captain's cabin, by the door, where he would lie in wait for poor old Joe the black steward; and woe to the unhappy man if he attempted to enter with a plate of eggs, without first seeing Bruin with one. On one occasion the steward attempted to pass without noticing the watcher, when in an instant down went the servant, eggs, dishes, and all, making so great a clatter that the sentry ran to the rescue; but the eggs were irrecoverably lost, and the poor steward limped away vowing vengeance against his enemy. After the spoiling of the captain's breakfast, the fee was never forgotten. I can picture to myself the amusing creature quietly enjoying his egg. To partake of his cherished food he balanced himself upon his hind legs, partly leaning against the bulkhead, then, holding the slippery oval in the curve of his claws, carefully enlarged the hole, and licked out the contents without

spilling a drop of the yolk. Barely had he finished, when a fair-haired, lively cadet would come slyly behind, and with a rude push of the foot destroy Bruin's equilibrium, and then a regular fight would commence. The bear, standing upon his hind legs, sparred with the youngster, who, by the way, was the especial favourite, the bear never, however, protruding his claws or losing his temper. As soon as the cadet grew tired, he would kick his antagonist in the chest, and away the bear would run in high glee to one of the men, to whom he had an especial dislike, and never lost a chance of showing it, snapping at him on every occasion.

Another of his favourite tricks was to lie by the hatchway feigning sleep, and when the unwary man whom he disliked stepped on deck he would thrust out his paw, hook it around the leg, and trip up his victim; and, before the discomfited tar could recover himself, he would be up the rigging and out of reach.

One morning the captain's cook came aft, and reported that several of the captain's fowls were found in the coop without their heads; this was ascribed to malice on the part of the crew, with whom the captain was no favourite; and it appeared probable, as no one had seen or known anything of the matter, although the coop was on the main deck, near the fore hatchway. The captain was furious, and declared he would punish the cook, unless he discovered the rascal who could be so wantonly mischievous: so a watch was set. The next night had passed without any one approaching the fowls, when, towards morning, the watcher observed a dark figure creep forward, and sit down in front of the coop, out of sight of its inmates. Seeing that it was only Bruin, he took no further notice, until his attention was aroused by several sharp snaps, as if the animal bit at something. This caused him to fix his eyes upon the bear. Presently a chicken put its head through the bars, when in an instant the bear took its head off; the man sprang up, and the culprit scampered away as hard as he could run. After this, our pet was chained up, and became very angry at such treatment, wreaking his vengeance upon any one who inadvertently came within his reach. The only liberty allowed our favourite was that of accompanying the captain, in the bow of his gig, when he went on shore. The figure she made in harbour was an extraordinary one. The gig being alongside, her coxswain first conducted the black bear to her bows—a work of some difficulty and danger. After receiving several severe bites from the animal, he positively refused the office. Then the men entered her, having tall bearskin caps, long beards and mustachoes, Chilian ponchos over their shoulders, and scarlet sashes round their waists; then a large white Vancouver Island dog was carried yelping into the stern-sheets, after whom followed the captain, and away the motley boat's crew went: an amusement and terror to the natives at the landing-place. In this way our favourite got an airing daily, while we were in port. Of his ultimate fate I never heard, as, upon our arrival in England, he was presented to the late Earl Derby for his collection at Knowsley Park.

BENEFIT CLUBS.

THE benefit club is a popular adaptation of the principles of mutual assurance, to meet the requirements of a class who are not in circumstances to provide effectually for the contingencies of sickness and death by any better means. What Lloyd's is to the merchant trading beyond sea—what the fire-insurance company is to the householder—what the life-insurance office is to the salaried

official or the man whose capital is afloat—that the benefit club is, in a certain degree, to him whose income is derived from his daily labour, and who is compelled to live, in a measure, from hand to mouth. The compact existing between the members of all these societies is the same in its nature; the subscribers to all of them stand in awe of certain calamities to which they are exposed, and they combine together in order, so far as possible, to break the force of such calamities when they do occur, by sharing them in common. With the insurer, the event that he fears is the loss of his vessel, his house, or his merchandise; with the working man, it is the loss of health; in either case, the society which assures him takes this loss, so far as it can be represented by money, upon itself, and receives, in return for the responsibility, periodical payments proportioned to the risk.

The practice of assuring against sickness and death is of very ancient origin, and traces of its existence, so far back as two thousand years, are found in references made to it in some of the old classical writers. When the custom first came into favour in this country does not appear, though it is probable that, in some form or other, it must have prevailed at a very early period of our commercial existence. The oldest of the benefit clubs now in being do not date further back than the middle of last century, and it was not until the year 1793 that they received the sanction of Parliament. Their history from that period, had we space to record it, would be found far from flattering; and the reason is, that the solid establishment of any such association involves the previous solution of a problem, for the solving of which there was not, up to a comparatively recent period, any obtainable data. From the want of accurate knowledge as to the risks they incurred, many of the early societies started under obligations which insured their speedy dissolution; in their eagerness to be doing business, they promised more than they could perform, and, when their funds were exhausted, had to be dissolved. Nearly seven thousand of the societies enrolled and certified since the passing of the Act of 1793, have thus perished, throwing multitudes of the poor members, whom they should have supported in sickness, back upon the parish for relief. To such an extent was this the case, that it has been found in some districts, that half the claimants for the parish dole were persons who had subscribed to defunct benefit clubs; and this has occurred even within the last few years.

During the present century, benefit clubs have enormously increased in number. In 1801, there were not ten thousand members in the whole country; in 1815 they had risen to nearly a hundred thousand; and at the present moment they are over three millions, possessing a capital of about eleven and a half millions, and an annual revenue of nearly five millions of pounds sterling. More than twenty thousand clubs are now in operation in England and Wales; and about a tenth part of them may be considered as firmly established, that proportion having existed over the thirty-two years, which is considered long enough to test the soundness of the system on which they are based. It is certain, however, that a large number of the societies now enjoying a fair reputation, are not in a condition to perform the covenants they have made with their members, and that, sooner or later, they must inevitably become bankrupt. Many of them would have stopped payment long ago, were it not that they are continually enrolling new members, whose deposits go to supply the deficits in their funds. Such a system of doing business is as foolish, if not as unprincipled, as that of a tradesman, virtually insolvent, who continues his trade by drawing and discounting new bills,

in order to take up old ones which would else be dishonoured. The crash will come sooner or later, and the longer it is delayed the larger will be the number of the sufferers, and the deeper the disgrace of the administrators.

The unsound financial state of the existing clubs originated partly in ignorance, and partly in recklessness. At the period of their formation, the rates of sickness and mortality, as extending over a long course of time, had not been accurately ascertained, and it was generally supposed that much smaller subscriptions would suffice to cover the risks than were afterwards found to be necessary. Add to this, the fact that rival societies competed with each other, and, in order to entice members to join them, offered increased advantages at reduced rates of subscription, and it is easy to conceive how it came to pass that their responsibilities grew larger than their means.

There is now, however, no sort of excuse for any new society being formed, or for any old one continuing to exist, upon an unsound financial basis. The problem which the first founders of benefit clubs could not solve, for want of the right data, has been solved for their successors, partly by the government returns of sickness and mortality, and partly by the experience of the numerous benefit clubs themselves during the last fifty years. It is known now, what *are* the numbers, both of those who fall sick and of those who die, out of any given amount of the population in any given period—that is, the average numbers are known, which is sufficient for all practical purposes. It is further known what are the liabilities both to sickness and death at all ages. Such knowledge has been obtained by collecting the registrar's returns over long periods of years, comprising seasons of plenty and general health, as well as those of cholera, epidemics, and famine; and it is only by making use of facts thus eliminated, that the due and proper ratio of the periodical payments of the members, to the sums which are guaranteed to them in sickness or at death, can be equitably determined.

It follows that the administrators of benefit clubs now in operation, whose finances are known or suspected to be in an unsatisfactory condition, should submit their affairs to the examination of competent accountants or actuaries, and at once inaugurate the needful reform. Most of them would naturally recoil from such a proposition; but, however unwilling to accept it, they may be compelled to do so by the instances of the members persistently urged; and it would certainly show far more wisdom on the part of the members to insist on ascertaining at once their actual position, than to go on in the dark, uncertain whether their just claims will be met in the hour of need.

In the formation of a new society, it would be well if all parties concerned in it would banish from their minds all sentimental notions about "friendship," "brotherhood," "open hand and generous heart," etc. etc., which in this case are mere illusions, and look upon the matter as being what it really is, a plain business compact, in which every man makes a bargain with his fellows, to which he is bound to stand or pay the forfeit. A club may now be organized with very little difficulty, where there is a sufficiency of members; all the needful calculations are now to be had ready made, in cheap manuals purchasable at the booksellers; and, whatever may have been the case once, there is now no need of mixing up sentiment with what is as much a matter of debtor and creditor as any transaction to be found in a shopkeeper's ledger. Further, the time is come when benefit clubs should get rid of all that gaudy tinsel and trum-

pery which it has long been the fashion to parade in the public highways at their periodical meetings. Why should the English workman bedizen himself with scarf, ribbons, and tri-color cockade, and march under a flaunting banner to the sound of music, bragging to all the world that he is man enough to spare two-and-sixpence a month in making a provision for the future? The reflecting spectator asks himself who pays for all this mummery, and what possibly can be the object of it? Does the price of the scarfs and the ribbons, and the flaunting flags, after which the tag-rag of the district are hooting, come out of the pockets of the members? and if so, is this hooby spectacle a part of the benefit they derive from clubbing together? What a satire upon prudence and providence, which are supposed to be the vital principle of benefit societies, is a long procession sweating under a burden of flags, banners, maces and gilded staves, while their balance at the banker's is not sufficient to meet their responsibilities! and yet, if the reports of actuaries are to be credited, such is the position of thousands of the English benefit clubs at the present moment.

We have a notion that a round number of the clubs to which the above remarks apply, are those got up by publicans. While we would dissuade no labouring man from joining a club—for we think he could not do better than join a good one—we would warn him by all means to steer clear of all those started by owners of public houses. It is no breach of charity to suppose that the publican has an eye to business in all that he does—that he wants to attract company to his house, in order to make or to increase his connection—and that, whatever may be his feelings with regard to the club and its prosperity, he will take care that the members shall not want encouragement to drink. The poor man should remember that prudence and the publican are sworn antagonists, and he should not unite them in unholy alliance. In the choice of a club, where a choice is practicable, preference is due, other things being equal, to that which is of longest standing. It should be remembered that no club can be justly constituted in which the rates are not graduated according to the ages of the members when entering. We have known clubs in which the man of sixty was admitted at the same rate as the man of twenty; of course, they went speedily to ruin; the old men got the benefit while they lasted, and the young were robbed of their deposits. As a rule, a man entering at forty should pay double the rate of him who enters at twenty, and men of sixty should be accounted inadmissible.

In conclusion, we may advert for a moment to the private or trade clubs, which never make any demonstration out of doors, but which exist in large numbers in London and the great provincial cities. Each club is confined to a single working establishment, and membership is compulsory upon all the hands employed. What is remarkable with regard to them, is the lowness of the rates. In one, the working of which we have watched for a dozen years, the subscription is 4*d.* a week, and the sum assured in sickness 2*s.*, with £5 at death. There is a rule that, in case of the funds running short, the deficit shall be made up by an additional penny a week from the members; but during the whole twelve years, with an average number of 200 members, the levy of the additional penny was needed but three times. The secret of the cheapness of such trade clubs would doubtless be found in the fact that they are managed without incurring a single farthing of expense. Their committee-room is the workshop after working hours; their officers are all honorary; they have no flags, banners, big drums

and trumpery; and they have none but industrious able-bodied men for members. We commend these suggestive items to our readers for what they may be worth.

MY ADVENTURES IN THE FAR WEST.

CHAPTER III.

TAKING the advice of some friends, I purchased a tent, when I got on shore, which I pitched on the hill behind the "Fremont," and "did for myself." There I led for some time a very Crusoe kind of existence, occasionally going down to the wharves and getting a day's work, which saved me from breaking into my small capital. My Bedouin-like homestead was, however, far from pleasant. Summer was advancing, and the inconsistent climate of San Francisco penetrating through the thin texture of my tent, broiled me by day and froze me by night. This fierce alternate heat and cold is no doubt the occasion of the excessive mortality amongst the inhabitants of San Francisco. Spite of the disagreeables which it involved, I found a tent life by far the best suited to my finances; and there was also a species of independence about it which I liked especially. One would have supposed that, leaving my effects as I often did for twelve hours at a stretch, I should have been robbed of them; for, of course, nothing was easier than to gain admittance into my domicile; but nothing of the kind occurred, and, strange to say, I never knew of a tent robbery all the time I was in California. My *cuisine* was very simple and by no means expensive. In order that the reader may judge of the prices of necessaries in San Francisco in the year '50, I will enumerate some of them. I could purchase sufficient bread for two days for a dollar. Tea and coffee were a dollar and a half a pound. Sugar, cheese, and butter were respectively three quarters, a dollar, and two dollars. Potatoes and onions were 75 cents, or half-a-crown a pound; while butcher's meat was cheaper in comparison than anything else; but, then, one must bear in mind that California is essentially a cattle country; and, before the mines commenced, the herds of wild cattle were so exceedingly numerous that the Mexicans slew them for the sake of their hides, which in fact constituted the only export of the country. Wood and water I found the most expensive articles in my *ménage*. A dollar would procure but a very small amount of fire-wood; and a single bucket of water cost the same sum. At the commencement of "doing for myself" I was a painful illustration of the saying, that cooks and viands do not come from the same quarter. At first, for instance, I never could understand why my tea never would sink in the water like other people's, but that I had always a number of what sailors call "stuns'l booms" floating about in my panikin. A friend of mine, to whom I communicated this exasperating fact, suggested that I did not boil the water—which was a fact. So, being enlightened on this point, I got on better afterwards. I believe it was the same friend who suggested to me that it was usual to use fat in frying a steak. That, I remember, was a great "wrinkle" to me at that period.

I proceeded in company with some others to see San Francisco by night. To witness the true state of the city, it was necessary to make the tour of the gambling-houses. Stare not, gentle reader; in San Francisco every "bar" of a hotel contained several play-tables; and a description of the principal features of the city, and the manners of its people, would be most incomplete without the introduction of this, unhappily, the most prominent feature of all.

The fact was, these "bars" were the usual evening promenade of all classes. "Home" was but a name in San Francisco; the streets were dark and dangerous, so that, from alcalde and judges, down to the ragged teamster, all met their friends in these cheerful well-lighted rooms, where there was generally music of some description or other, and there they conversed on the news of the day. It must be borne in mind that the fact of the public having the right of *entrées* did not at all necessitate drinking or playing. Not one visitor in twenty did either. The principal of these gambling "bars" were built side by side on the grand Plaza or square. For myself, I could never see the slightest excitement in the play, and never was tempted to it. It was obviously an almost unavoidable necessity that the bank won, no matter what the game, whether roulette, rouge-et-noir, vingt-et-un, hazard, or the popular Spanish game *monté*.

It is much to be regretted that the Americans, as a nation, are deeply imbued with the pernicious vice of gambling, than which no infatuation is more fatal. Immense was the harvest that the professional gamblers in San Francisco reaped from this unfortunate national tendency.

One great prize, amid innumerable blanks, I certainly did see carried off by a player. One day, at the "Hotel de la Marine," a French café, a half-tipsy sailor forced his way amongst a number of players congregated round a roulette table, and flung down a rial—sixpence—on the red cloth, on which lay a very tempting "bank," consisting of dollars, in piles of twenty, extending over a space of about a yard square, inclosing a heap of doubloons, and centred by a good sized bag of gold dust: in all, between one and two thousand pounds of our money. As the lowest stake allowed to be played by the bank was a quarter dollar—a shilling—the rial was returned to the man. Declaring it was all he had in the world, the sailor persisted in throwing down the coin every time "the game was made." At length, out of all patience, the gambler, who played the roulette-wheel, nodded to the banker, as much as to say, "Win it, and let him go." That insignificant motion of the head cost the two gamblers nearly £2000. The sailor's rial being allowed to remain, won, and became a quarter dollar. Afterwards it grew to a dollar, and, as its master played on—many dollars. By degrees, the broad "chevaux de frise" of dollars that protected the doubloons dwindled away from the bank—the doubloons followed suit—and, lastly, the bag of gold dust was also lost. The winner backed an ounce of gold against the red cloth. He won that too. Then, carefully taking the four corners of the cloth, he tied each opposite corner together in hard reef-knots, that never slip, swung the heavy bundle over his shoulders, and trotted off to his ship in triumph!

Feeling the want of regular employment, in conjunction with another adventurer I purchased a fine whale-boat, and thus I became a boatman. This was certainly the pleasantest and most remunerative employment I enjoyed while in San Francisco. There was a strong feeling of *esprit de corps* among the boatmen, and as much as in us lay we kept up our monopoly and high fares. Neither did we allow even the authorities of the city to interfere with us. Truth to tell, these gentry "made their faces white before us;" for we came out very strongly at election times, and generally voted unanimously on a question; so that our support was no contemptible affair. Rumour did not give the boatmen of San Francisco the best character; but a little rowdiness was their worst fault in general. No doubt, amongst them, as other classes, bad characters were to be found.

One boatman of the name of Melbourne, who hailed from the town of that name, was especially a ruffian. One day he was carrying a passenger ashore, to whom he communicated that the fare would be six dollars. The passenger signified that he considered such a sum was an imposition, and he should not pay it. "Then," said Melbourne, "I shall trouble you to leave my boat at once." "Impossible," replied the other, "we are a mile off shore." "For all that, get out of my boat," persisted Melbourne; and, taking his stretcher from the bottom of his boat, he actually beat the unfortunate man till he got him over the side. There, spluttering and struggling, the victim at last consented to pay the six dollars demanded; upon which the inflexible boatman hauled his reculant fare aboard again, and rowed him ashore. Practical jokes, amongst which the above piece of ruffianism is not to be classed, abounded amongst the boatmen, who, after all, were generally a set of mere lads. Chinamen passengers were great game to them. I give a shameful instance, from which the reader may form an idea of the lawless violence that prevailed.

One day a pair of Chinamen landed on the point—the great stand for boatmen—who were evidently very recent importations from the "Flowery Land." It was difficult to say whether pride or corpulency was their most distinguishing feature, but it was evident at a glance that they had quite sufficient of both qualities. They were dressed in the extremity of their mode, and sported enormous pigtails and goggle-eyed spectacles, with large wooden rims. Sons of Confucius! evil were the times when ye fell among the barbarian boatmen! In a moment, a "foreign devil" had crept up behind them, and severed, with sacrilegious knife, the pig-tail of the gravest and portliest of the twain, and scoured away with it. The "rape of the lock" was not so adroitly effected, but that the despoiled one quickly discovered his loss, and loud and discordant were the outcries of himself and brother Chinaman. But justice is at hand. Lo! several boatmen have arrested their thieving fellow, and the shrilly wailing Chinaman is assured that he shall be promptly punished. Then the accused and accusers are hurried into a little wooden building close at hand, which they of China are told is a Hall of Justice, but which looks uncommonly like a low barbarian grog shop. A portly boatman ascends the chair of justice—a beer barrel on the counter, and the trial commences. The agitated accused is confronted with his accusers. Being caught red-handed—is not the tail still in his hand?—he is found guilty. He goes down on his knees and pantomimically begs for mercy. The great untailed one is impassive and unforgiving—he refuses it. Seeing there is no chance of a reprieve, the judge delivers the sentence, amid great sensation. It is that of imprisonment. But the plaintiff is informed that the sentence of the law cannot be carried into effect till he disburses the fees of the court, to the amount of ten dollars. The poor Chinaman grumblingly fumbles out the amount, and is then graciously informed that, for an extra five dollars, the culprit will be flogged. After reflecting, he finds he cannot treat himself to the luxury of this additional revenge. So the court is dissolved, and the Chinamen go on their way, in some measure consoled. Deluded Ching Chings! The moment their backs are turned, loud and general fraternization becomes the order, or rather disorder of the day, and the ten dollars are expended in liquid refreshment, of which judge, prisoner, and the crowded court partake. In such cases of cruel and heartless injustice, law and police at that time gave no protection nor redress!

Varieties.

A PUNCTUAL DOG.—The following is communicated by a friend in Norfolk:—"Some time ago, my father possessed a very sensible dog, that he valued highly on account of his superior sagacity. He very much resembled a fox; so much so, that, when lying in his kennel, he has frequently been mistaken for one. His habits, however, were not in the least fox-like; for he was a thoroughly honest dog, and never known to steal. Every morning at seven o'clock, Tom was unchained, but he never went out until nine, when he started on a round of morning calls. As he visited all the gentlemen's houses for several miles, and as he never stole anything, he was always welcome. He stayed at each house for about half an hour, and took thankfully whatever was given him. He had certain days for visiting certain places; so people always knew when to expect him, as he never failed to go at his right time. Tom was very particular about being in time for dinner, and always came home precisely at one, which was his dinner hour, and he did not go out again till the next day at nine. During the first year we had him, great alarm was felt one morning; for Tom did not return, and his punctual habits made us fear that some accident had happened. Inquiries were made, and we heard that he had been seen at a neighbouring village fair; so we hoped that, as soon as the fair was over, he would come home. The next day passed, and no Tom arrived; but on the third day, at one o'clock, in marched the truant, and went quietly to his kennel, as if nothing had happened. I ought to mention that the fair lasted two days. We concluded that he must have spent the whole time at the fair, though, for what reason he went, no one could guess. The next year, at fair time, he proved our conclusion to be just, by going off again for the two fair days, and returning as before on the third; and persons who attended the fair saw him there in company with some other dogs. He continued to attend the fair as long as he lived, and we never could find out how he knew the day, or where he slept whilst there, as he was invisible the greater part of the time. Having a fresh man one year, he came to my father on fair day in great alarm, saying that Tom was not returned to dinner. 'Oh, no,' said my father; 'you need not expect him home to-day or to-morrow, but you may have his dinner ready on Thursday, as usual.' The man did so, and Tom returned in good time to partake of it. As any one may imagine, great was the sorrow when the poor old fellow breathed his last, and could no longer afford a lesson of punctuality to those around him."—A. M. E.

CHARACTER.—The most trifling actions that affect a man's credit are to be regarded. The sound of your hammer at five in the morning or nine at night, heard by a creditor, makes him easy six months longer; but if he sees you at a billiard-table, or hears your voice at a tavern, when you should be at work, he sends for his money the next day.—*Franklin.*

EQUALITY.—So far is it from being true that men are naturally equal, no two people can be half an hour together, but one shall acquire an evident superiority over the other.—*Dr. Johnson.*

MIDDLE CLASS SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.—The theory had been prevalent that "anybody would do for a school-master," and, in certain cases, that theory still held sway. True, the higher order of schools, Eton, Harrow, and others, and even many parish ones, had able men over them; true, the schools under certificated schoolmasters were, as a rule, under satisfactory discipline; but the middle class private schools, those for the sons of small tradesmen (as Canon Robinson, of York, and many others had shown), were often taught by broken down tradesmen, dismissed clerks, and bankrupt publicans. No wonder that the profession had been, and was still, to a great extent, despised, being used as "young ambition's ladder," or as a "refuge for the destitute."—*A. J. D'Orsey's Lecture at Cambridge.*

REASONABLENESS OF FAITH.—Since we neither know by what means punishment in a future state would have followed wickedness in this; nor in what manner it would have been inflicted had it not been prevented; nor all the reasons why its infliction would have been needful; nor the particular nature of that state of happiness which Christ is gone to prepare for his disciples; and since we are ignorant how far anything which we could do would, alone and of itself, have been effectual to prevent that punishment to which we were obnoxious, and recover that happiness which we had forfeited; it is most evident we

are not judges, antecedently to revelation, whether a Mediator was or was not necessary to obtain those ends, to prevent that future punishment, and bring mankind to the final happiness of their nature. And for the very same reasons, upon supposition of the necessity of a Mediator, we are no more judges, antecedently to revelation, of the whole nature of his office, or the several parts of which it consists; of what was fit and requisite to be assigned him, in order to accomplish the ends of Divine Providence in the appointment. And from hence it follows, that to object against the expediency or usefulness of particular things, revealed to have been done or suffered by him, because we do not see how they were conducive to these ends, is highly absurd. Yet nothing is more common to be met with than this absurdity. But if it be acknowledged beforehand that we are not judges in the case, it is evident that no objection can, with any shadow of reason, be urged against any particular part of Christ's mediatorial office revealed in Scripture, till it can be shown positively not to be requisite or conducive to the ends proposed to be accomplished, or that it is in itself unreasonable.—*Bishop Butler.*

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.—The first paper published in North America was the "Boston News Letter," established in 1704; and the second was published in that city in 1720, about which time a paper was also started in Philadelphia; and there were four others in other parts of the American Colonies. When the Revolution began, in 1775, there were only four papers published in the city of Boston, and the whole number in the United States was but thirty-seven, to wit: Seven in Massachusetts; one each in New Hampshire and Georgia; two each in Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; three in South Carolina; four each in Connecticut and New York, and nine in Pennsylvania. In 1810, the whole number in the United States was 369; in 1828 it was 852; in 1840 it had increased to 1631; and in 1850 to 2526. The aggregate number of copies circulated in 1850 was 426,409,978. The whole issue for one year, estimated upon the basis of an ordinary country paper, would cover a surface of one hundred square miles, or constitute a belt of thirty feet wide around the earth, and weigh nearly 70,000,000 pounds. There are now nearly 4000 newspapers in the American States.

IDIOTS USEFULLY AT WORK.—The present workshops are filled, and more pupils are capable of receiving instruction, were there room for their operations. The constantly increasing numbers daily augment the difficulty. The labour in these shops is not insignificant in its results; all the shoes, baskets, cloth-clothes, matting, rugs, and carpentering for the establishment are executed therein. There are other occupations, such as brush-making, and fancy basket-making, which might be added, and which would afford advantageous employment for the female patients. Out of 314 patients, 149 males, and 64 females, are employed in industrial occupations, to the great benefit of the health, both of body and mind.—*Report of the Asylum for Idiots at Earlswood.*

HAY'S WATERPROOF GLUE.—Its principal ingredient is Trinidad pitch or asphalt, which is mixed with vegetable tar and oil naphtha, or a suitable substitute. The best proportions for the ingredients are—Trinidad pitch, or asphalt, 60 lbs.; vegetable tar, 15 lbs.; oil naphtha, 2 lbs. Instead of the oil naphtha, 4 lbs. of oil of turpentine may be used. When it is required to pack the composition, and send it out for use, and where it may be expected to require remelting and long exposure to heat in the melting-pots while being used, an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of oil naphtha, rough creosote, or oil of turpentine is recommended by the inventor to be added.

"ELIZA" OF "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."—The Rev. W. Mitchell, a coloured minister of Toronto, Canada, has assisted at the escape of hundreds of fugitive slaves, among whom were the "Eliza" of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and "Little Harry," whom he carried in his arms for miles. A portrait of Mr. Mitchell was presented to him as a testimonial from the friends of negro emancipation, during a recent visit to England.

CITY MISSIONS.—In Manchester, thirty of the eighty missionaries employed in that city are supported by the subscriptions of individual donors, seven others by the subscriptions of two gentlemen combining to support a missionary labourer, and four others by a like union of three gentlemen. If forty-one of the eighty missionaries in Manchester are thus supported, what might not London do with all its resources!

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